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4-1-2003

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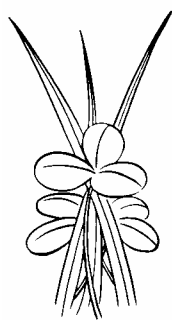
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FORAGE NEWS

APRIL 2003

Garry D. Lacefield and Jimmy C. Henning, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary

FORAGE NEWS LOSS –

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE GAIN

Since 1989, Dr. Jimmy Henning has played a critical role in the writing, editing, production, and distribution of Forage News. Effective March 1, he became Assistant Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky. Christi and I will certainly miss Dr. Henning's many contributions to this newsletter. We take this opportunity to wish him the very best in his new role and pledge our support. Good luck Jimmy – we will miss you!

FORAGE NEWS REFLECTIONS

Many of you already know that as of March 1, I have assumed the duties of Assistant Director of Cooperative Extension for Agriculture and Natural Resources here at UK. That means that I am leaving the position of forage extension agronomist that I have held for over 13 years here. It is with quite a bit of sadness that I write this last installment for Forage News. This newsletter is one of the longest running monthly newsletters published by the college, a tribute to Garry Lacefield and Christi Forsythe who keep it going. It is one more thing that will stay the same after I am gone. In fact, the UK forage program will maintain its high commitment to service and extension that it has always had. So you can expect no decline in the quality of this program. Garry will see to that. I will be fulfilling all of my outstanding forage commitments (master cattleman, grazing school) over the next months, so I will get to see many of you and get to talk about forages. I am looking forward to getting to work more closely with county agents and all commodities to help move agriculture and natural resources forward in Kentucky. I appreciate all the support you have given to me in the past, and hope that you will feel comfortable to contact me about your needs in the future. You can contact me at 859 257 1846, or Jimmy.Henning@uky.edu. And at least for a little while, I will remember something about forages. It has been a great 13 years.

KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL

Our Spring Grazing School will be held April 22 & 23 at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green. Registration fee is \$100.00 and includes a copy of Southern Forages,

Comprehensive Grazing Notebook, other printed materials, selected meals, and breaks. To register, make checks payable to Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council and send to Rebecca Smith, 400 W.P. Garrigus Bldg., University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215.

Listed below is the program for the Grazing School:

Tuesday – April 22, 2003

- 8:00 Registration: All times are Central Time.
- 8:15 Introduction of staff and participants
- 8:20 Benefits of rotational grazing - *Garry Lacefield*
- 8:40 Growth of grasses and legumes and their response to grazing - *Jimmy Henning*
- 9:00 Understanding traditional forages – *Garry Lacefield*
- 9:25 Break
- 9:45 Establishment of forages in pasture systems - *Jimmy Henning*
- 10:30 Understanding the endophyte of tall fescue - *Garry Lacefield and Jimmy Henning*
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Meeting nutritional needs on pasture – *Donna Amaral-Phillips*
- 11:45 Discussion
- Noon Lunch
- 12:45 Temporary fencing and chargers for effective grazing - *Buddy Rowlett*
- 1:15 Portable/seasonal watering systems – *Kevin Laurent*
- 1:45 Overview of the WKU Farm - *Byron Sleugh*
- 2:00 Field exercise - All instructors
- Concurrent small group sessions on fencing, water system construction, costs and quality of fence materials, weed identification and control, and estimating when to move cattle
- 5:00 Layout discussion and homework assignments - *Ken Johnson*
- 5:45 Supper

Wednesday – April 23, 2003

- 8:00 Managing grazing systems for the maximum grazing season: plant considerations - *Garry Lacefield*
- 8:30 Managing grazing systems for the maximum grazing season: animal considerations - *John Johns*
- 9:00 Managing surpluses in grazing systems with baleage - *Garry Lacefield*
- 9:20 Break
- 9:40 Forages for problem times - *Jimmy Henning*
- 10:10 Minerals for grazing cattle - *Roy Burris*
- 10:40 Break

10:50 Parasite control and rotational grazing – *Patty Scharko and John Johns*
 11:20 Using grazing systems to meet water quality guidelines - *David Stipes*
 11:50 Questions
 Noon Lunch
 12:40 Animal disorders on pasture - *Patty Scharko*
 1:20 Value of shade and water - *John Johns*
 1:50 Laying out your system: Discussion of homework assignments - *Ken Johnson*
 2:30 Discussion
 3:00 Graduation and final comments

FORAGES FOR GOATS

Interest and opportunities for Goat Production in Kentucky has dramatically increased over the past few years. As a result, I have asked Mr. Terry Hutchens, Extension Associate for Goat Production, University of Kentucky to write several columns for Forage News. Terry has done an outstanding job providing information and leadership for this program and I greatly appreciate him taking time from his busy schedule to make this important contribution to Forage News. His first article appears below.

THE MEAT GOAT AND CATTLE CONSORTIUM

If you are a beef or dairy cattle producer, you may have read about the benefits of grazing goats with cattle. However, it is likely that those statements were left a little shallow, and somewhat lacking in details. The following six articles will attempt to provide traditional cattle farmers with enough information to make a decision to add goats to the cattle herd or to leave goat production to someone else.

Like many of you, I am old enough to remember the 1980's when grazing information coming out of Australia, New Zealand or South Africa was near gospel. Time has shown that information importation was a gateway to present cattle grazing strategies being used in the southeast and temperate areas of the U.S. Likewise, the importation of goat grazing information from "down-under" can likely be used as an introductory to grazing goats jointly with cattle in Kentucky. Australian and African findings confirm that co-grazing of unlike species (goats/cattle) can improve stock productivity of one or both species through enhanced pasture quality and weed control. Producers can maximize investments made in land resources by grazing unused areas of the farm based on plant preference and terrain differences. Likewise, co-grazing can provide additional farm income and improved cash flow by marketing goats from resources presently being dedicated to a single commodity.

What Do Goats Graze?

Goats have been classified as intermediate selector feeders. Which means that goats have plant preferences that extend to many different plants. However, these preferences are dependant upon forage amount, geographical location, and seasonal variation within the same region. The objective of the goat is to feed upon the highest quality forage available. On the average, African Boer goats have been observed browsing 60% of the

feeding time and grazing 30%. Yet, when weather conditions change the quality hierarchy, Boer goats may browse 27% to 86% of the feeding time depending on abundance and quality of the browse. In addition to weather, Boer goats prefer to browse in the morning and graze in the late afternoon. Goats in general graze from the top of the pasture height downward and graze tall feed first. Tall feeds are often weeds and seed heads. These tall feeds are grazed to the side on a horizontal plan with the ground and perpendicular to the forage. Unlike sheep and cattle, goats do not like to graze down into the forage canopy where the clovers reside. This would explain the increase in white clover content of pastures after being grazed by goats. White clover is near the bottom of the preferred list for goat grazing. I have personally seen goats graze tall fescue within 1 inch of the ground, carefully avoiding lush white clover plants within the pasture mix. A cattle farmer may classify goats as a renovation tool and use for removing weed and grass competition from clover renovated pastures.

In a manner of summarizing the above, the following statements can be made about how goats graze. Goats will predominately browse until quality and quantity of the forage becomes limiting. As both quantity/quality decline grazing of grasses and forbs dominate the preference. Secondly, rumination and time spent ruminating decrease with reduction in forage. On the contrary, as forage quantity/quality declines standing and walking activities increase. Reduction in rumination and rest-time increase energy maintenance level for grazing goats, thus reduces the amount of energy available for growth and productivity.

These observations confirm that goat productivity is directly related to the availability of superior quality and desirable forage. Once the forage component becomes compromised productivity declines. However it is important to note that goats graze differently than do cattle. When a variety of forage plant choices are available for goats, little or no forage compotation or overlap will occur. Overlap will occur on pastures made up of one or two predominate pasture species and in these cases stocking rates become an important aspect of grazing management. Therefore, severe slopes covered with brush and brambles exclude cattle from certain sections of the farm while goats may see areas containing a smorgasbord of culinary opportunity. *(Terry Hutchens, Extension Associate for Goat Production)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 22-23 Kentucky Grazing School, Bowling Green
 APR 26-30 American Forage & Grassland Conference, Lafayette, Louisiana
 JUN 12 UK Agronomy Field Day, Lexington
 JUN 17-18 Kentucky Grazing School, Bourbon County Extension Office, Paris
 JUL 17 UK All Commodity Field Day, Robinson Station, Quicksand
 JUL 24 South Central Kentucky Agriculture Field Day, Bowling Green

Garry D. Lacefield *Jimmy C. Henning*
 Garry D. Lacefield Jimmy C. Henning
 Extension Forage Specialists
 April 2003